Fresh BPL census

*29. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning a fresh BPL census to identify the BPL families; and

(b) if so, the parameters proposed to be used to identify those families?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under joint responsibility of Central and State/UT Governments. The operational responsibility for identification of eligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) families and issuance of ration cards to them under TPDS rests with the concerned State/UT Governments.

As provided under Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001, the State/UT Governments have to identify BPL families as per the poverty estimates of Planning Commission accepted by the Central Government. For taking up next round of BPL census in rural and urban areas, Ministries of Rural Development and Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, respectively, are yet to issue guidelines.

Recent train accidents in the country

*30. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has taken seriously recent train accidents in the country;

(b) if so, whether she has taken a serious note of recent incident of Goa Express that rammed into another train near Mathura;

(c) if so, the number of railway officials and others who were involved in this incident;

(d) how many officials responsible for this have so far been dismissed and inquiry started; and

(e) the safety measures her Ministry has taken so far and to what extent these measures would help avoid train accidents in the country?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Inquiry by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, North Eastern Circle has been ordered to establish the cause and the responsibility behind the rear-end collision involving Mewar Express and Goa Express on 21.10.2009 near Mathura Station of Agra Division of North Central Railway. Central Bureau of Investigation has also been requested to take up investigation of the sequence of events leading to the unfortunate accident and after considering all the police cases registered in this matter to unravel the truth.